

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-05 USIA-15 NASA-02 OC-05

CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-07 FCC-02 NSAE-00 RSC-01

COME-00 BIB-01 /058 W

----- 023275

R 041520Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4710

UNCLAS VIENNA 0956

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, ETEL, AU

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SMALL EARTH-STATION TECHNOLOGY
ASSESSMENT

REF: A. STATE 282811; B. STATE 4864; C. VIENNA'S A-44

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL A.
AUSTRIA HAS NO NATIONAL PROGRAM OF ITS OWN WHICH WOULD
REQUIRE SMALL EARTH-STATIONS. IT WILL, HOWEVER, PAR-
TICIPATE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
MINISTERS OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CEPT) IN
WAVE PROPAGATION MEASUREMENT TESTS OF ESRO IN CONNECTION
WITH DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE
SYSTEM. TWO EXPERIMENTAL EARTH-STATIONS (3-METER
ANTENNA) WILL BE CONSTRUCTED FOR THIS PURPOSE, ONE BY
INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND WAVE
PROPAGATION OF THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ
(PROF. DR. WILLIBALD RIEDLER) AND ONE BY AUSTRIAN POST
& TELEGRAPH ADMINISTRATION (AP&TA), AUSTRIA'S SUPREME
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY.

2. PROFESSOR RIEDLER'S EXPERIMENTAL EARTH STATION IS
SCHEDULED TO START OPERATIONS WITH ATS-6 IN MID-1975
AND LATER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OTS (EXPERIMENTAL
EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE) TESTS. THE
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AP&TA PLANS TO PUT ITS EXPERIMENTAL EARTH STATION INTO SERVICE

IN EARLY 1977 WHEN OTS EXPECTED TO BE ORBITED. DEPENDING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN SYSTEM, APTA PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A 30-FOOT ANTENNA EARTH-STATION TO GO INTO SERVICE IN THE EARLY 80'S. LONG-RANGE PLANS FURTHER CALL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 90-FOOT OR 30-FOOT ANTENNA EARTH-STATION FOR AN INTELSAT SATELLITE OVER INDIAN OCEAN, DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE SATELLITE WILL OPERATE IN 4/6 GHZ OR 11/14 GHZ FREQUENCY RANGE. IT IS ALSO CONTEMPLATED TO BUILD EVENTUALLY ANOTHER 30-FOOT INTELSAT EARTH-STATION FOR AN INTELSAT SATELLITE OVER THE ATLANTIC OPERATING IN THE 11/14 GHZ FREQUENCY RANGE.

3. GOA HAS BEEN MAKING STRONG EFFORTS FOR SOME TIME TO DEVELOP CAPABILITIES OF AUSTRIAN INDUSTRY IN SPACE TECHNIQUES. FOR THIS PURPOSE IT HAS ESTABLISHED AUSTRIAN SPACE AGENCY TO COORDINATE AND STIMULATE ACTIVITIES OF AUSTRIAN INDUSTRY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTES AND TO ADVISE GOVERNMENT ON PROPOSALS FOR AUSTRIAN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS.

4. AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT'S PURCHASING POLICY WILL FIRST MATERIALIZE IN THE COURSE OF CALLS FOR TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST AUSTRIAN INTELSAT EARCH STATION, EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED AT END OF FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH (REF. C). EXTENSIVE USE OF THE SERVICES OF AUSTRIAN COMPANIES WILL BE CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL IN ANY SUCH PROJECT, AND THIS WILL HOLD TRUE ALSO WITH REGARD TO SMALL EARTH-STATIONS.

5. ALTHOUGH PRICE WILL BE OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE THERE APPEARS TO BE A TENDENCY TO GRANT SUBSIDIES FOR ORDERS PLACED DOMESTICALLY IF PRICES CHARGED BY THE AUSTRIAN COMPANY HIGHER THAN THOSE OF A FOREIGN COMPANY. HOWEVER, PARTICIPATION OF AUSTRIAN FIRMS WILL BE RESTRICTED DUE TO LIMITED CAPABILITIES AUSTRIAN ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.

6. WE UNDERSTAND CONTRACT FOR PARABOLIC REFLECTOR AND FEED SYSTEM FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ EXPERIMENTAL STATION HAS BEEN AWARDED TO AEG/TELEFUNKEN. APTA SEEMS UNCLASSIFIED

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INCLINED TO BUY WHOLE STATION FOR ITS EXPERIMENTAL SYSTEM ABROAD.

7. DELIVERY TIMES, GUARANTEES FOR POST PURCHASE SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE, ETC. WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ESSENTIAL FACTORS.

8. RE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, APART FROM BUYING AS

MUCH EQUIPMENT AS POSSIBLE DOMESTICALLY, AUSTRIANS WOULD
PROBABLY PREFER TO BUY WESTERN RATHER THAN EASTERN
EUROPEAN EQUIPMENT. HUMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENNA00956
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750041-0304
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750272/aaaacmym.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 282811, 75 STATE 4864, 75 VIENNA'S A-44
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN SMALL EARTH-STATION TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT
TAGS: PINR, ETEL, AU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006